

EVERGREEN VALLEY CHURCH JOYFUL HEARTS MINISTRY APRIL 2007 NEWSLETTER

Traveling Life's Tempestuous Sea'

Life is a gift from God. We can treasure the time we have and 'Run Our Race' with perseverance and joy, or we can allow the world's distractions to keep us from His ultimate purpose for our lives. We have His treasure in these earthen vessels to Bless Others along life's pathways. Are we growing in the likeness and character of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ and becoming the Salt of the Earth - to make others thirsty for that Living Water which God has placed into our hearts?

'This world is not my home,
I'm just a-passin' thru;
If Heaven's not my home,
Then Lord what will I do?
The angels beckon me
From Heaven's open door—
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore!'

Have you hungered and thirsted after God? Are you weary with the world's trials and tribulations that you yourself are passing through? When we run our race, do we 'Keep on Keeping On?'

Hallelujah - we have a RISEN SAVIOUR, the Lord Jesus, to whom we can turn in times of need, when we need 'shelter from the storms' of life. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall see God. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are you when men shall persecute you ... and say all manner of evil things against you, falsely, for My Name's sake - for great is your reward in Heaven."

Last Fall, my husband and I were driving across a 17-mile bridge over Chesapeake Bay during a Nor'easter storm. The wind was whipping the waves in all directions - every horizon was a choppy, churning bowl of frothing waves--with sea foam flying in opposite directions from the waves. In fact, there didn't seem to be any direction at all. Being a person who gets 'seasick' on a small sailboat, I was grateful for the two underground stretches where shipping passed through the Bay to its Baltimore destination. Even though passing through an underwater tube beneath deep waters is not my favorite place to be either, but I welcomed the peaceful calm which settled over my mind, body and spirit before emerging to face the storm once more.

Our lives frequently go through 'stormy seas' where we can seem to lose direction and like Jesus' disciples, we want to cry out, "Lord, save us from this storm, or else we shall perish!" We need to remember that Jesus is directing our lives - and if we recognize that fact, we can be at peace and be of comfort to others, even when we seem to be facing unbearable trials - loss of homes, jobs, family. All seems lost...but God. He is our Great Shepherd who neither slumbers nor sleeps and knows the number of hairs on our heads. In our despair, look up into His shining face, "and the things of this Earth, shall grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

So, Run the Race set before you with His Strength and Joy--Encourage Each Other while we still have time to Labor in the Harvest!

Maranatha!
Janice Beever